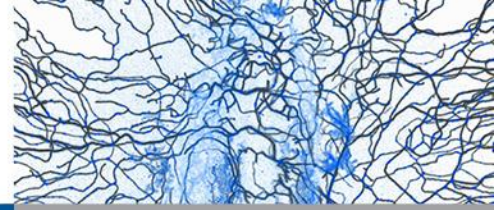


# The Federal Budget Process



## 1. The President's Budget

- **Timing:** February
- **Target:** Congress
- **Message:** Support (or don't) the President's budget request
- To start the budget process, the President submits a detailed budget request to Congress.
  - It includes a target for top-line spending, as well as specific amounts for each government agency.

## FY 2014

The President requested:

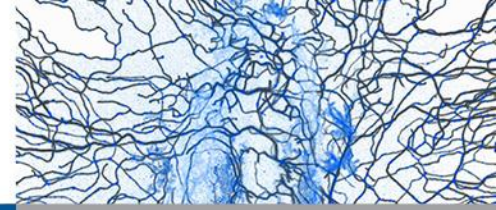
- **\$3.8 T** in spending
- **\$31.1 B** for NIH

The President's budget is detailed but ultimately carries little weight in subsequent negotiations in Congress.



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# The Federal Budget Process



## 2. Federal Budget

- **Timing:** March
- **Target:** Budget Committees and Congress
- **Message:** Allocate the maximum amount of money toward the top line budget
- The budget committees decide top line budgets (spending targets) which are then voted on in the full chambers.
- The two chambers then conference to reconcile any differences.
  - If there is no conference, the two chambers continue under different top-line numbers.

## FY 2014

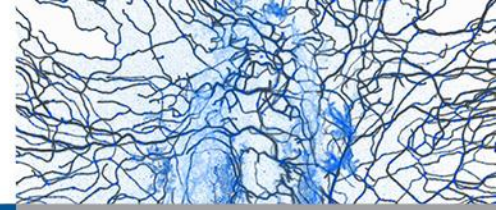
- House Budget: **\$3.5 T**
- Senate Budget: **\$3.7 T**

The huge difference in top-line budgets means a conference is unlikely.

A large difference in top line numbers means the resulting House and Senate appropriations bills will be different and difficult to reconcile.



# The Federal Budget Process



## 3. Appropriations to Subcommittees

- **Timing:** April
- **Target:** Appropriations Committees
- **Message:** Allocate the maximum amount of money to the NIH & NSF subcommittees
- The appropriations committees decide the total amount each of the 12 appropriations subcommittee can allocate.
  - The Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee oversees NIH.
  - The Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee oversees NSF.

## FY 2014

- The House assigned **\$121 B** to Labor-HHS.
- The Senate assigned **\$164 B** to Labor-HHS.

This difference means that the Senate Labor-HHS subcommittee will be able to allocate more money to NIH than the House Labor-HHS subcommittee.

# The Federal Budget Process



## 4. Appropriations to Agencies

- **Timing:** May - July
- **Target:** Appropriations Subcommittees
- **Message:** Allocate the maximum amount of money to NIH and NSF
- The 12 appropriations subcommittees hold hearings and decide the budgets for each agency under their purview.

## FY 2014

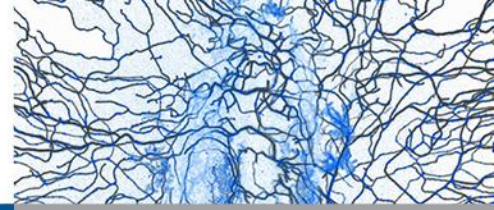
- The House has not marked up Labor-HHS.
- The Senate appropriated **\$30.9 B** to NIH.

No mark-up means no bills to conference on.



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# The Federal Budget Process



## 5. Appropriation Bill Voted On

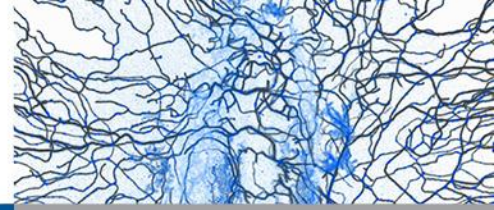
- **Timing:** June - September
- **Target:** Appropriations Committees and Congress
- **Message:** Support (or don't support) the appropriations bill
- Amendments are added and bill is voted on in committee and then in full chamber.

## FY 2014

- The House has not marked up Labor-HHS.
- The full Senate Appropriations Committee voted to send the Labor-HHS bill to the full Senate.
- The Senate has not yet voted on the bill.



# The Federal Budget Process



## 6. Conference and Final Bill

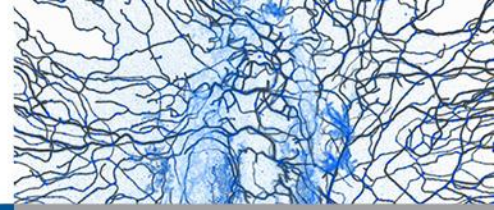
- **Timing:** September
- **Target:** Congress
- **Message:** Pass a budget—don't rely on continuing resolution
- The House and Senate resolve the differences between their appropriations bills in conference.
- Once differences are reconciled, each chamber votes on conference report (the final version of a bill that is negotiated between the House and Senate).

## FY 2014

- A conference is unlikely due to differences in numbers.
- If a conference is unlikely, a continuing resolution (for a few months or more) to fund the government is likely.



# The Federal Budget Process



## 6.5. Continuing Resolution

- **Timing:** Late September
- **Target:** Congress
- **Message:** Pass a budget before the continuing resolution expires
- A continuing resolution (CR) provides funding for existing federal programs at current, reduced, or expanded levels.
  - It usually calls for flat funding.
- If a continuing resolution is not passed, the federal government will shut down until there is a budget or CR.

## FY 2014

- NIH was funded at **\$30.6 B** in FY 2013.
- When sequestration is factored in, funding was **\$28.9 B**

A continuing resolution would essentially mean flat-funding from FY 2013 minus the FY 2014 sequestration (estimated at 7 percent cut).

